

A BLIND MAN WHO DIDN'T GIVE UP

Kintner, Louise

Hv1792

S



**M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY  
AMERICAN PRINTING  
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**



# A Blind Man Who Didn't Give Up

By Louise Kintner  
Publicity Secretary, The Lighthouse



Pleasure in Wood-Carving

TWENTY-FIVE years ago John Springer began to have trouble with his eyes. It didn't seem so very important at first, but in his work as a photographer his blur before his eyes interfered. The blur became blindness. And John was 55 and full of energy with a family to support. He's almost eighty now, a human testimony of the man who didn't give up.

All men at some time are faced with a personal crisis. But, fortunately, only one out of a thousand has to learn to go on without the queen of senses—sight. The Lighthouse, headquarters of The New York Association for the Blind, 111 East 59 Street, had been established only 13 years when John Springer came to them.

"What can a blind man do?" was his first question. And every year that same question is asked over and over again by the newly blind. Let's watch John Springer get used to his handicap. Sure it takes courage, it takes help and guidance. It's a problem that the Lighthouse specialist and the blind man must work out together. The hardest thing for the newly blind to do is to accept the fact that he is blind. If he can do this, he can fit

into the work and play program of the Lighthouse.

Back in 1918, we sent John Springer down to our Bourne Workshop, trained him to make brooms. He brought home a weekly pay envelope to his wife. John found factory work quite different, much more confining than photography. He missed being outside, meeting different kinds of people, but he was learning how other blind men met their problem, he was learning and earning at the same time.

When John was 61 he began to feel the strain of factory work, couldn't produce as much as he did two years ago. A home teacher told him he might apply for a newsstand. He became another blind newsdealer. John loved his corner stand—liked to pass the time of day with his customers, now and then he recognized a voice of a friend he used to know in the old days when he could see. He was a good newsdealer, his pleasant voice became a landmark on that New York City corner in the upper seventies.

John himself was approaching seventy when his health forced him to give up his stand. "Yes, by now," John smiled when he said it, "I'm one of the older blind."

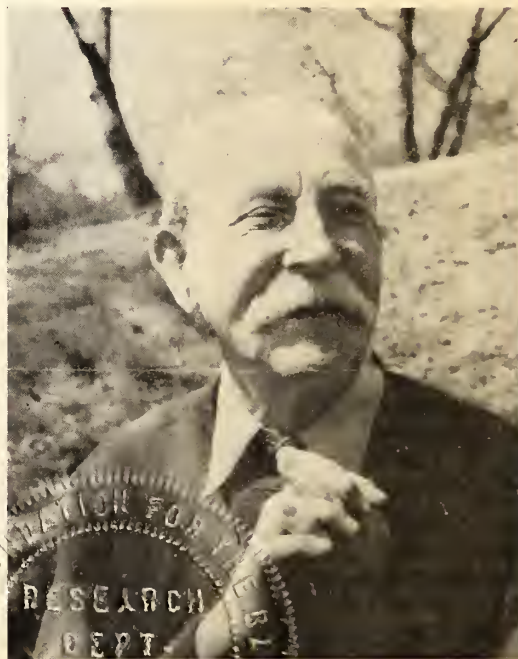
Today at the Lighthouse, out of the 4,053 blind persons registered with us, 1,133 are over 65 years of age. What can we do for this age group? We help them to work out their financial problems, visit them in their homes, and send them in the summer to our vacation home, River Lighthouse, up the Hudson at Cornwall.

It was up at River Lighthouse in 1930 that the Camp Hostess suggested to John the fun he might get out of wood-carving. "That's a good idea," he told her, "I'd love to make something. Sitting around the house with time on my hands really gets me down sometimes." He learned how to use the tools of the woodcarver. He picked up a little toy model of a dog in a swap shop, a bust of Beethoven in an art store. Both were soon converted into wood through the patient, loving hands

of blind John. Last year at the age of 79 John exhibited his work in a Hobby Show.

Life began all over again for John. He had always had the art feeling—the desire to create. You can see here John Springer holding in his hands a rooster carved from a Chinese porcelain model. He truly sees with his hands. His examination of the Chinese rooster for the first time was a lesson in sculpture. His sensitive fingers found every line, every form, and plane. His fingers slowed up when he came to the rooster's comb; over and over, he touched it. He had transferred the form to his mind.

It was a proud day this winter when John and his wife brought the rooster to the Lighthouse. He gave it to the little blind Nursery School children. They had heard a rooster's crow last summer during their vacation. And for old John Springer they imitated the rooster because, as he told them, his rooster was made of wood and could not crow.



At Eighty, a Blind Man Still Smiles



## HIGHLIGHTS from Agency Reports

**T**HE Brooklyn Children's Aid Society in its 76th Annual Report (for 1941) showed about 450 children in full time care. During the year 590 children from 422 families received help and in the same period 166 families applied for children to be placed in their homes. Of these applications, 39 homes were approved for use.

\* \* \*

**T**HE 1940-41 report of The Young Men's Vocational Foundation indicates 208 job placements for Negroes and 378 for white youths.

## To Discuss Yorkville Study

### Dr. Earl Lomon Koos Will Speak at Junior League

**D**R. EARL LOMON KOOS, eminent sociologist, will be the speaker at a meeting of the New York Junior League and the Citizens' Health Committee of the Kips Bay Yorkville District next Tuesday, March 16, at 3:30 P.M., at the League Clubhouse, 221 East 71 Street.

Dr. Koos will discuss "The Lives of Our Neighbors," a study of the various nationality groups, their background and social adjustments in the Yorkville district. The discussion leader will be Professor Eduard C. Lindeman and the occasion is intended as a stimulus to volunteers working in the agencies of the Yorkville district.

All persons wishing to attend should apply for tickets, 50 cents each, before March 15 at the Clubhouse.

## BROADCASTS

Friday, Mar. 12: "Your Hearing and the War," Mrs. William A. Loeb, 11:45 A.M., WNYC.

Saturday, Mar. 13: "The War and Home Accidents," Captain Charles B. Scully, 9:15 A.M., WOR.

"Food Equivalents and Substitutes in the Child's Diet," Dr. Samuel Levine and Lucy Gillette, 1:45 P.M., WABC.

Monday, Mar. 15: "Common Stomach Troubles," Dr. Harry Goldin, 4:45 P.M., WBNX.

Tuesday, Mar. 16: "Your Health and Your Teeth," Gladys A. Adams, R.N., 11:45 A.M., WNYC.

Thursday, Mar. 18: "Future of a Child with Heart Disease," Dr. Joseph Bunim, 1:15 P.M., WNYC.

"The Court Serves the Community," Mrs. Ira Sobol, executive vice-chairman of Bronx CVO, and Francis X. Stephens, president of Board of Bronx Catholic Big Brothers, 8:15 P.M., WBNX. Broadcast one in series on "The Community on the Alert," under auspices of Bronx Council for Social Planning.

# National Group Offers Program to Give Homes to War Worker

## Committee of Housing Associations Calls Present Plan Inadequate

**C**HARGING that acute housing shortages throughout the nation have interfered seriously with the recruitment of essential workers in war production communities, the National Committee of Housing Associations last week called on various Federal agencies to revise the present war housing program so that essential workers "can be assured a place to live."

In the absence of any plans to utilize excess space in occupied dwellings where workers can be housed, the committee termed "inadequate" the present program of government leasing of dwelling space "which fails to provide for the systematic and efficient use of all available unused structures in congested war production centers."

A six-point proposal, aimed at speeding up the classification and certification of workers who should receive first consideration for war housing and dwelling space, was adopted by the committee and sent to the War Manpower Commission, the War Production Board, the National Housing Agency, and the Office of Price Administration.

The recommendations as summarized by the committee call for: establishment of War Housing Centers under the National Housing Agency to assure adequate housing of workers in all war production communities where housing conditions are critical; certification of applicants for war housing by the War Manpower Commission to local War Housing Centers; creation of an advisory board within local War Housing Centers of local representatives of the National Housing Agency, the War Manpower Commission, the War Pro-

duction Board, and the Office of Price Administration; compulsory registration with War Housing Centers of all vacant dwellings or other structures capable of conversion; issuance of an Executive Order by the President granting power to the National Housing Agency to lease vacant buildings; and initiation of program for utilizing excess space in occupied dwellings in war congested areas.

Members of the National Committee of Housing Organizations which drew up the proposals include the chairman, Sydney Maslen, of the Committee on Housing of the Community Service Society of New York; Mrs. Mary Sklar, Citizens' Housing Council of New York; Edmund N. Bacon, Philadelphia Housing Association; Wilson S. Borlan, Pittsburgh Housing Association; Hil Gitlin, Metropolitan Housing Council, Chicago; Mrs. Helen Duey Hoffman, Washington Housing Association; Bleecker Marquette, Better Housing League of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; Alex Linn Trout, Citizens Housing and Planning Council of Detroit; and Calvin H. Yuill, Housing Association of Metropolitan Boston.

## USO Expands Service

United Service Organizations started the new year by opening 65 new clubs and special centers, bringing the total to 1,233. Present plans, according to Dr. E. A. Winslow of the USO Field Operations Department, call for the opening of 200 additional clubs and units.

BETTER TIMES Entered as second-class matter at New York, N. Y.  
44 East 23 Street  
New York, N. Y.

Better Times—\$1.50 a Year

HV1792  
S

c. 3

Kintner, Louise

THE BLIND MAN WHO DIDN'T GIVE UP.

| Date Due |  |  |  |
|----------|--|--|--|
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |

